AN OLD TIME PUNITHMEN

Book in hand, Master Dunton paused abrubtly in his task of pronouncing the words, and for a moment glared along the row of boys and girls who were "toelag the line" on the floor of a country schoolhous. one afternoon some sixty years ago.

Then he spoke in a tone of deep displeasure: "This is a pretty piece of work! Not half the words put out yet, and everybody has missed, dosk, except Georgie Dole, and he the lesson! Go back to your seats and take your spelling-books! I'm going doubt upon the spelling book? to give you fifteen minutes to study. It will be the first time to-day for some of you. Then I will call the class again, and the very first one "Here it is; 'v-i-t-a-l-s, victuals-the that makes a mistake shall be pun-

The exact form of the threatened that was not at all necessary. Everybody knew. Punishment at that time and place did not mean copying newed his search, with a secret fear tant hand. verses, or loss of recess, or being kept after school, or even marks-except such a might be left temporarily on some smarting palm by the heavy ruler that lay on the master's desk.

Master Dunton was a teacher of no little local fame. It was well understood that he was "a master hand" at figures, could set a copy almost as plain as print, knew all the rules of grammar by heart, although he was not unduly hampered by them in conversation, and could parse any thing in Pope's "Essay on Man," or in "Paradise Lost."

Perhaps his greatest lack, educ: tionally speaking, was in spelling. But as the spelling in schools of that day was oral, and as he could always have the book before him when hearing the lessons, his weakness in that respect was hardly worth censider-

His special claim to distinction, however, came from his "government.'s There was no school in all the country round too hard for him to "keep it out"; no boy, however ever b d, or big that dared to dispute his authority.

At the appointed time the first class in spelling was again called, and its members came straggling forward, elbowing one another into place. The long row, as finally arranged; was graduated according to achievement, rather than height. At the head was stationed Georgie Dole, the minister's ten-year-old son, who seldom missed and never misbehaved while at the foot towered Joseph missed, and who by his conduct it. doubtless deserved the frequent chasents that fell to his lot.

It was evident that the allotted fifteen minutes had been well spent, and the first two journeys of the spelling-lesson down the line passed without accident.

All the words that had been put out before had now been taken care of, but there remained the as yet untried portion of the lesson.

"Victuals!" shouted the master, turning to Georgie at the head of the

prompt reply expected, Georgie hesi- But that was hardly necessary. Mastated, blushed, and rolled his big ter Dunton was conscious of no loss blue eyes round wildly, as if he had dignity as he issumed his autocratic been taken by surprise.

"Victuals," repeated the master, glancing at the book, and wondering at the d.lay.

Then Georgie, after apparently searching his memory, ventured cautiously, "V-i-e-t-u-a-l-s, vietuals."

"Wrong!" cried the master, in a tone of dismay. Then, forgetting in his astonishment to pass the word to the next, he asked sorrowfully, "Why Georgie, how came you to make such a mistake?"

"If you please, sir," faltered Georgie, "I didn't see that word in the spelling-book."

Didn't see it!" roared Master Dunton, his mood changing at once. "Wasn't it right there before your eyes-second word, third column? What do you mean by such a prevarication as that?"

Just then a knock at the door diverted the strained attention of the school, and Mr. Dole, the minister, who was also school committeeman, was ushered into the room. He at once discovered that his son was in good for cuts, sold by Richardson & Mar trouble; for Georgie, althogh he was a brave little fellow and did not fear a whipping, had completely broken down at the sound of that word "prevarication,"

Answering the minister's look of inquiry, Master Dunton explained

"All, you miss on existents." you say," said Mr. Dole, glaneing / fox ook. "How did he spell it "Tell your father how you spelled Georgie," said Mr. Dunton. "V-i-c-t-u-a-ls!" sobbed the boy.

pelled, Mr. Dunton?"

"Why, v-l-t-a-l-s!" answered the master, in a tone of surprise. "There it is in the speller," he added, offering the book.

"Suppose you look up the word in dom-used book that lay upon the it.

youngest of all! I won't hear such a it be that the minister, learned man "Now, there are 10 minutes of the though he was, presumed to cast a hour remaining. If any student de-

But he began to turn over the pages of the dictionary, and at last ability." he announced, rather pompously, parts essential to life.' Nothing could be plainer than that."

"Now will you look it up the way punishment was not specified; but Georgie spelled it?" ; sked Mr. Dole, with a twinkle in his eye.

The master's face fell, and he reat his heart.

This time there was no note of triumph in his voice as he spelled out; "V-i-c-t-u-a-i-s - food for human student, beings."

Then he turned again to the other word, stared at it a moment, shut the book, and pronounced his ver-

"George is right, and I have made a stupid, inexcusable mistake."

"The best of us are liable to misteke," said the minister, reassuringly Master Dunton made no reply, but walking deliberately to the desk, he took up the birch ruler.

"Joseph Nile.," he said, solemnly, will you step this way?"

"I wa'n't doin' anythin'!" protested Joseph.

"No, I am the one to be punished this time, and I must call on you, as the oldest and largest scholar, to attend to it," and the teacher handed best in all the world. the ruler to the unwilling Joseph.

"I don't want to do it, Mr. Dunton," said Joseph, with a look of grief such as he had never shown when called upon to take the subordinate part in the performance.

"I do not like to punish, either," said the master, "but what of that? punished for my good and the good of the school. What did I say would and colds. Parsons Drug Co. happen to the first one who should make a mistake? Would you have my promise broken? I cannot carry it out myself, but you mast help me." So saying, he held out his palm, and Joseph, not knowing how to re-Niles, a brawny youth who generally fuse, let the ruler fall lightly upon

> "That is not the way that I have taught you," said the master, smiling grimly. "Lay on, Joseph!" And the stalwart youth, thus urged, warmed to his work, and finally did full justice to his training.

"Perhaps that will do," said Mr. Dunton, at last, withdrawing his afflicted hand and rubbing it gently with the other. "I thank you, Joseph. And now we will proceed with the lesson." He looked round for the minister, but that worthy man had slipped out of the door, perhaps in But instead of piping back the deference to the teacher's feelings.

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of the book.

your detionary," suggested Mr. Dole, above their heads and they did has been recovered, a man named quietly, pointing to a small and sel- not understand even the edges of Morgan a fisherman. Other bodies

When he had finished the old man Master Dunton was puzzled. Could | took out his watch and sald genially: sires to ask me a question I shall be glad to answer it to the best of my

> The class sat in a stupor. The professor waited for a time and then

"Is there no one who has a question to ask? There are remaining several minutes that could be profitably employed."

Finally one student put up a reluc-

"Ah," said the professor, "you have a question. What is it?' "What time is it?" stammered the

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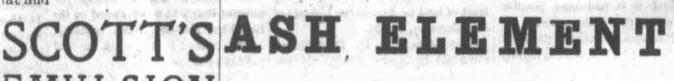
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